

REMARKS

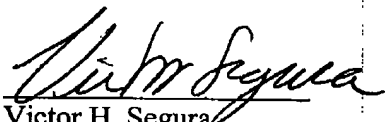
The title has been amended and a replacement abstract is submitted to more clearly indicate the nature of the invention. Claims 94 and 105 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Specification pages 7, 12 and 14 have been amended to further describe the claimed subject matter. Drawing figures 18-23 have been added to more clearly illustrate the claimed features. Approval of new figures 18-23 and withdrawal of these objections is requested. No new matter has been added by amendment.

Claims 88-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Clark et al. (6,297,639). Applicants respectfully submit that Clark et al. does not preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. §103 since the present application (S.N. 09/689,574) and Clark et al. were owned by the same assignee (Schlumberger Technology Corporation) at the time the claimed invention was made. Thus Clark et al. is excluded as a §103 reference against the present application.

Applicants believe this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and placing this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be advantageous in advancing the issuance of the present application, a call to the undersigned at (281) 285-4562 is encouraged.

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Respectfully submitted,


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